

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 91-555-C - ORDER NO. 91-1108 ✓
DECEMBER 10, 1991

IN RE: Request of Southern Bell for)	
Approval of Revisions to its)	ORDER DENYING
General Subscriber Service)	REQUEST OF SCATAS
Tariff to Introduce Memory-)	AND MOTION OF
Call as a New Service)	SOUTHERN BELL
Offering.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of the South Carolina Association of Telephone Answering Services (SCATAS) for a thirty (30) day extension of time in which to answer Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph's (Southern Bell's) First Set of Interrogatories propounded to SCATAS in this Memory Call docket. Southern Bell filed a Return in Opposition to this request, and also filed a Motion for the Imposition of Sanctions against SCATAS.

Southern Bell served its interrogatories on SCATAS on November 25, 1991, and asked that these be answered by December 5, 1991. SCATAS requested its extension of time by letter dated December 3, 1991, but failed to state a reason for its request other than citing the "nature" of the interrogatories. A hearing on the merits of this case is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 1991, at 2:30 p.m.

Southern Bell asserts in its Return to the request that the

interrogatories request data in support of specific allegations made by SCATAS' interrogatories, and that the information had to be compiled and reviewed prior to the submission of SCATAS' testimony. Further, Southern Bell notes that this Commission has already postponed the hearing date on Memory Call from November 14, 1991, to December 11, 1991.

After due consideration of the materials submitted by all parties, we believe that SCATAS has not stated a sufficient reason for us to grant the thirty (30) day extension of time in which to answer Southern Bell's interrogatories. Further, we agree with Southern Bell that the information requested by it should be readily available. We do not, however, believe that the hearing on the merits of the case scheduled for December 11, 1991, should be delayed in order to allow SCATAS to answer Southern Bell's interrogatories. We therefore hold that SCATAS must file and serve its answers to Southern Bell's interrogatories by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 1991. We further hold that this means that these answers must be physically present in the Commission's offices and in the hands of Southern Bell's attorneys by that date and time. The hearing should commence as scheduled.

With regard to Southern Bell's Motion for the Imposition of Sanctions against SCATAS, we hold that this Motion must be granted in part. The Interrogatories propounded by Southern Bell address various portions of SCATAS' prefiled testimony, asking for explanations of various terms and phrases, and requesting studies upon which various statements by SCATAS witnesses are based. We

hold that SCATAS must answer Southern Bell's interrogatories fully. For each question not answered fully by SCATAS, the SCATAS witness' testimony relating to that question should be stricken. This shall apply whether explanations of words and phrases shall be sought or descriptions of supporting studies.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the request of SCATAS for a thirty (30) day extension in which to answer Southern Bell's First Set of Interrogatories is denied.
2. That SCATAS must file and serve its answers to Southern Bell's First Set of Interrogatories by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 1991.
3. That these answers must be physically filed with the Commission and in Southern Bell's attorneys hands by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 1991.
4. That the hearing on the merits of this case will commence on Wednesday, December 11, 1991, at 2:30 p.m. in the Commission's hearing room as scheduled.
5. That Southern Bell's Motion for the Imposition of Sanctions on SCATAS is granted in part as described above.

6. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)